

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BL

SUBJ: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE  
BOLIVIAN REACTION

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. IN A JANUARY 18 MEETING I HAD REQUESTED TO DISCUSS THE  
TRADE BILL, SUB-SECRETARY OF BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER,  
MARCELO OSTRIA, RAISED WITH ME HIS VIEWS OF THE LIKELY  
BOLIVIAN PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S  
VISIT TO THIS PART OF THE CONTINENT WITHOUT COMING TO BOLIVIA.  
HE BELIEVES THAT THE BOLIVIAN PUBLIC WILL CONCLUDE THAT THE US  
IS NOT INTERESTED NOR CONCERNED WITH BOLIVIA. THE OFFICIAL  
REACTION, HE SAID, IS ONE OF DISAPPOINTMENT.

2. OSTRIA SAID THAT THE GOB WOULD WELCOME A VISIT BY SECRETARY  
KISSINGER, BUT THE GOB ASSUMES THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY  
THAT HIS PRESENT ITINERARY COULD BE CHANGED AT THIS DATE.  
HOWEVER, THE GOB, ACCORDING TO OSTRIA, WOULD BE PLEASED IF  
THE SECRETARY WOULD STOP OFF IN LA PAZ EITHER EN ROUTE TO  
OR ON HIS RETURN FROM THE MFM MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES.  
IF THAT WERE NOT POSSIBLE, THE GOB WOULD BE DELIGHTED WERE  
THE SECRETARY TO INVITE THE BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO  
WASHINGTON FOR A PRIVATE MEETING, WHICH COULD BE  
ANNOUNCED DURING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP IN THE AREA. I  
SUGGESTED THAT ANOTHER POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO PROPOSE THAT THE  
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SECRETARY RECEIVE THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN A PRIVATE BILATERAL

MEETING JUST BEFORE THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN APRIL. OSTRIA SAID THAT WHILE THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL, THE MOST DESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO LA PAZ.

3. I EXPLAINED TO OSTRIA THAT I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SECRETARY WAS VISITING COUNTRIES WHICH HE FELT A COMMITMENT TO VISIT FROM PERSONAL INVITATIONS EXTENDED PREVIOUSLY. I SAID THAT THE OMISSION OF BOLIVIA WAS IN NO WAY A NEGATIVE DECISION REGARDING BOLIVIA. I EXPLAINED THE OBVIOUS IMPOSSIBILITY FOR THE SECRETARY TO VISIT EVERY COUNTRY IN THE HEMISPHERE, AND THAT VISITING THE REGION WOULD BE POSITIVE FOR ALL COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE I APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTIES IN SCHEDULING AND THE PRESSURES ON THE SECRETARY, WERE HE TO VISIT HERE BRIEFLY BEFORE OR AFTER THE MFM IN BUENOS AIRES, IT WOULD BE A MAJOR AND POSITIVE ACT IN STRENGTHENING EVEN FURTHER THIS COUNTRY'S CLOSE SUPPORT FOR US AND OUR POLICIES.  
STEDMAN

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